



EV371746995US

NITTA/004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner : Melanie D. Bissett
Group : 1711
Applicants : Naoyuki Tani et al.
Application No. : 09/786,001 Confirmation No. : 6419
Filing Date : June 4, 2001
For : WORKPIECE RETAINER AND METHOD FOR
ATTACHING/DETACHING WORKPIECE BY
USING THE SAME

New York, New York
May 21, 2004

Mail Stop Amendment
Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This is in response to the January 21, 2004 Office Action in the above-identified application. Applicants have petitioned concurrently herewith to extend the time for response to this action for one month, to May 21, 2004, and have paid the required extension-of-time fee [37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and § 1.17(a)(1)].

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the **listing of claims** which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.

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